

Summary of Delaware County Plan Changes
Sent to DHS on 1/2/2013

Due to the recent cuts in mental health funding, it is necessary for Delaware County to consider the implementation of a waiting list for certain 100% county funded services. The current administrative plan mentions waiting lists but never really addresses them in detail. The proposed changes to the plan would correct this. The plan will now only cover Delaware County since we will no longer be a part of the NE Iowa group once regionalization takes effect.

The following two changes are more restrictive in the Delaware County Plan (changes are underlined in red):

1. Treatment Services –Psychotherapeutic (Page 9)

Outpatient Therapy is a planned process in which a therapist uses professional skills, knowledge and training to enable individuals to realize and use their strengths and abilities; take charge of their lives; and resolve their issues and problems. This service can be provided by any licensed mental health professional in individual or group settings. All residents are eligible for outpatient services if individuals meet financial criteria. Outpatient psychotherapeutic service funding is also available to individuals with household incomes between 150-250% on a co-payment schedule. Delaware County will fund up to 12 sessions per year per individual for individual therapy, including the initial assessment. Counties will also fund up to 8 psychiatric visits per year including the diagnostic interview. Group therapy utilization limits are based on individual need. Exceptions may be granted based on vital need or safety of an individual.

(Delaware County previously funded 24 individual sessions including the initial assessment, and 12 psychiatric visits including the diagnostic interview.)

2. Waiting List (Page 14 section H.)

In the event of the creation of a waiting list for funding, individuals placed on a waiting list will be notified. The notification will include the estimated length of time the person may have to wait before funding will be available. Individuals on the waiting list will be contacted at least quarterly and advised of their current status and any adjustment to the expected time on the list. When funding becomes available, counties will determine which individuals will enter the system in accordance with the date placed on the waiting list and on emergency need. When implementing a wait list the items that shall be waitlisted are 100% county funded transportation, vocational services, and SCL services. This is for all new recipients and or any renewal of these such services as they come up for reauthorization. SCL may be approved at a maximum of 5 hours per month in the event of trying to prevent hospitalization, a higher level of care placement, or for a short term stabilization when transitioning to a least restrictive environment. Exceptions may be granted based on vital need and or safety.

The changes will impact individuals who are applying for initial services or service reauthorization. It identifies what specific services will be wait listed. Both changes allow for exceptions based on vital need or safety of the individuals applying.

Service providers and individual receiving service funding may disagree with these changes, however there was no opposition at the public hearing held on January 2, 2013.